



Minutes

Meeting Regular Council Meeting
Date February 7, 2023
Time 7:00 PM
Place Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Meggan Joseph
Councillor Sarah Fowler
Councillor Cheryl Northcott
Councillor Douglas Elliott

Staff Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer (by video)
Amanda Knibbs, IT Coordinator (by video)
Wanda Waksdale, Admin Assistant
Janet St-Denis, Corporate Services Manager

Public 22 Members of the public (9 online)

A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory.

B. Introduction of Late Items

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0048/2023

THAT the Agenda be amended to add a Recess and a Closed Meeting following Item N. Public Input #2.

CARRIED

C. Approval of the Agenda

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0049/2023

THAT the Agenda for the F February 7, 2023 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

D. Petitions and Delegations

None.

E. Public Input # 1

A member of the public commented on audio-visual equipment for Council meetings.

There was a discussion about the Community Dock Project/ correspondence item L2.

A member of the public spoke to the Community Charter with respect to the Good Food Box Program.

A member of the public commented on the Firehall Project and requested that his late correspondence be added to the agenda.

Fowler/Joseph: VOT 0050/2023

THAT the February 1, 2023 letter from Mervyn Brown be added to the agenda under Correspondence as "L5".

CARRIED

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 17th, 2023

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0051/2023

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of January 17, 2023 be adopted as presented

CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 17, 2023.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0052/2023

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 17, 2023 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**1 registered
"no" Councillor
Elliott**

3 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting held on January 23, 2023.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0053/2023

THAT the Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting minutes of January 23, 2023 be adopted as presented

CARRIED

4 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 23, 2023.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0054/2023

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of f January 23, 2023 be adopted as presented

CARRIED

H. Business Arising

- 1 Councillor Fowler's Notice of Motion Re: Use of Recreation Centre and Insurance Coverage for Community Food Initiative Partnerships.**

WHEREAS food security is one of Council's strategic priorities for 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Tahsis partner with the community groups, including but not limited to:

- * The Knights of Columbus Hampers (once per year)
- * Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Loaves and Fishes truck (once per month, 12 days annually)
- * Strathcona Food Box and Greenways Trust (biweekly, 24 days annually)

SO THAT these Groups are granted the use e of the Tahsis Recreation Centre as part of a Village program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to make this use as under the Village's Insurance.

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0055/2023

THAT this resolution be considered.

CARRIED

Councillor Fowler spoke to her motion. A discussion followed.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0056/2023

THAT this resolution be approved.

CARRIED

**1 registered
"no"
Councillor
Elliott**

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

I wish to start my report with our budget discussions. This year, there are no new tax increases for residential taxpayers apart from a modest increase in the water requisition to cover off projected costs for the coming year. Strata units such as condo apartments will see an increase. Any other potential increases may come from other categories which we have no control over such as police, hospital and school services. The village finances are in good condition as we were only in a \$35,000 deficit which is being corrected with small increases to property categories such as utilities managed forest and light industry designations. Village contingency reserves are also in good shape, sitting at about \$1.65 million. We did not draw from reserves in 2022. Despite all this, we have brought in medical and dental plans for village employees, as well as councillors, and increased our minimum starting wage for unskilled employees to \$20/hour.

Another item I wish to mention is that the Village has acquired a remote camera for assessing pipes in town for blockages, which will save on out-of-town contractor costs. Inspections such as this can now be conducted by Public Works.

Its starting to feel like meeting season again. Since the last council meeting, I have met with the Strathcona Regional District Board including the First Nations Relations Committee, Comox Strathcona Regional Health Board, Solid Waste Management Board, Ministry of Transportation, and Island Coastal Economic Trust. The MoT meeting was with Tahsis Council and we discussed the progress that has happened in the last year and the improvements that are still needed on the Head Bay Road. I also had a call last week with our MLA where we discussed Tahsis issues and the recapitalization plans for ICET. As ICET funds economic development projects in our region, refinancing from the province is important to us and we expect an announcement soon, once the provincial government finalizes its budget. On another note, I was recently interviewed by CBC Radio where I talked about cave conservation issues in my capacity as president of the Cave Conservancy of Canada. Tahsis region caves featured in the interview.

I have been hearing concerns regarding payphones disappearing from Tahsis. This is happening across the province and we have been talking to Telus about this issue for the last couple of years. Unfortunately, they are not backing down and are trying to force everybody onto cell phones. The unfortunate part of this is that even if you have a cell phone, coverage is not universal and some plans are not supported here. I have also raised this issue with them but it remains to be seen if there will be any progress. Telus has suggested that we open a public internet phone in town, but the village would have to pay for running this. Yet another cost download, but this time from a corporation.

Councillor Joseph

No report.

Councillor Fowler

The draft report for the BCCDC is available as is a early quarterly report for Tahsis Buyers' Group of the Good Food Box. I am thankful for this dates of note page prepared for village vegetables. On February 2, I started a new Climate Transition Cohort Training with Tamarack Institute. The link for welcome package is below. I welcome others interested in participating in our local team to reach out to join before March 2, 2023, at 10am, as it takes place on the 1st Thursday of every month for an hour and a half.

Lastly, I look forward to able to participate in the Traditions and Tides February 15-17, 2023, in Nanaimo. The Elected Official Seminar for the AVICC region of the Local Government Leadership Academy has awarded me a level 1 certificate that I received May 5, 2021.

Submitted respectfully,
S.Fowler

2023 Climate Transition-Cohort

<https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/climate-transitions-cohort-faq>

Nootka Sound Watershed Society Minutes

<https://www.nootkasound.info/blog/categories/minutes>

Councillor Northcott

Yesterday, was our 5th budget meeting and it was great to see so many people attend.

I attended the VIRL trustees meeting on January 28th and was re-elected to the executive committee.

Last Friday, I completed the Responsible Conduct Every Day online course offered by the UBCM. A copy of my certificate will be included with my written report.

(certificate attached)

Councillor Elliott

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the overwhelming support that I received since my last mail out. There is a growing number of residents throughout the community that realised that we need to get our financial house in order. The Taxpayers Association is well under way and I wish it success. These types of organizations are what keep our local government accountable, they record and tabulate the council voting history and educate the public as to which candidates are best suited during the elections. This will provide each councillor an opportunity to engage this association and benefit when addressing their concerns. I believe they will be highly influential come the next election.

While engaging with the community, it is very clear that the economy throughout the country is in a recession. Inflationary rates are at an all-time high and the interest rates continue to rise with no signs of retreating. This is the worst time to borrow money and any large capital project is doomed to go way over budget. I did not campaign to borrow millions of dollars for capital projects that the village cannot afford. I received a large property tax increase which to me, raised a red flag concerning the financial status of the village. It was even more apparent that this village is unable to afford the upcoming loan payments. I now understand why the CAO is holding back the information concerning the administrative overhead. I am hoping that our mayor will correct this.

Before the last election, the council was the first administration that wanted to borrow millions of dollars to complete their capital project list. This would put us on the hook for severe tax increases over the next 30 years. This village has had 25 years of financial mismanagement and we now have to face the obvious problem. We cannot afford to continue down this path. We are approaching that critical moment, where it will be, too late.

What our village needs to do is clean house and set the bases up to have all future councils financially accountable as a first priority. We need to hire professionals that will ensure that the town operates within the budget and contributes 10% to replenish the cash reserves each year.

A bylaw should be created that the mayor and council only spend half of what they save in the first three years toward grants and capital projects. This would allow the council to selectively choose the grants that would benefit the village and not put the village in a financial crisis nor in a position of debt.

Each council should be mandated that they leave the village in a better financial state than when they were first elected. I understand how an elected official wish to leave their legacy however the financial status of the village should not suffer as a result. This would ensure that taxation remains within inflationary rates. This would also motivate the council to be more responsible in making decisions concerning the day to day operational costs. Failure to recognise this has multiple options. We can decide to go under the control of the regional district before we allow this council to borrow any funds. That would reduce our taxes while still maintaining the core services that the regional district would provide. The other alternative would be devastating as we the taxpayers would be on the hook for large tax increases thus lowering our property values and inflicting severe financial hardship on the community. This would prohibit future growth and deem us unattractive to potential investors in the future.

What is blatantly obvious here is that is re-elected officials are not addressing the real issues that this village faces. They are more interested in pursuing their capital project list and burying us in massive debt. Their strategic plan is way off base. They refuse to engage the public in meaningful debate and show no signs of accountability or transparency. They are protecting the CAO that is unable to manage this village within its financial means. We the taxpayers are the ones that will suffer if this continues.

The pathetic design of the boat launch facility was a classic example of why this village has lost confidence in this council. Members of the public brought forth numerous concerns on the flawed design. It was blatantly obvious that the engineer and the majority of the council had no previous marine experience. What's worse is that the design does not address the commercial needs of the community whatsoever. It is not in our best interest to have the CAO have any further involvement in this project. Council was poorly advised and has lost credibility when they were persuaded to approve this plan. There has been a considerable amount of discussions throughout the community concerning this fiasco. What needs to happen is that the mayor puts forth a motion to reconsider. Once approved. A motion to have this matter brought forth to a committee needs to happen next. Utilising the expertise from within the community could create a superior design that could be finalised by an experienced engineering firm. Local contractors should be given first preference. I recommend Mr. Hogarth, Mr. Macintosh and myself take part on this committee. This is a golden opportunity for the mayor to redeem himself from such a colossal mistake. We are all human. We all make mistakes. Wisdom is obtained when you learn from your mistakes. How we are perceived is based on how we react. Failure to act will have a negative impact on this entire community.

As far as the fire hall plan, the mayor and I disagree. It is abundantly clear to me that the community is not interested in converting the wood shop into a fire hall. There is growing support to repair the existing facility. The mayor has stated that there will be a referendum however, if the grant is fully funded, he is no longer obligated to conduct the referendum. That doesn't take into account that we the taxpayers are still on the hook for cost overruns and subject to lease payments for decades to come. I have little faith in the engineering firm that came up with this plan. Especially after they signed off on the water system that was implemented in 2016. They are not experts when it comes to repairing foundations and our fire hall is repairable. I hope the mayor recognises that we, the taxpayers, should be part of the decision on how the grant is spent. The grant will not be cancelled if we come up with a better and more affordable plan that preserves our existing investments.

The bottom line

The mayor needs to put forth the motion that a referendum be organised and that the village votes on whether we want the existing fire hall repaired or proceed with his plan. Let the community decide. After all, they are the ones that have to pay for it.

Thank you for coming out tonight. I hope the mayor will run the meeting according to the Robert's Rules of Order and allow questions from the public to be answered by the council without discrimination, censorship and violations of the Canadian Constitution. This is crucial if this council wishes to be recognised as accountable, upfront and hopefully honest.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0057/2023

THAT the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED
1 registered
"no" Mayor
Davis**

K. Bylaws

None.

L. Correspondence

- 1 January 19th, 2023 Letter from Mr. Murray Peavoy Re: January 17th, 2023 Council Meeting.**
- 2 January 30, 2023 email from Nigel Hogarth Re: The Community Dock Project**
- 3 Letter from Rachel Blaney, Member of Parliament, North Island to Power River Re: Canada Dental Benefits, How to Apply**
- 4 January 18, 2023 Email to Mayor and Council from Deirdre Syms, Executive Director, BC Epilepsy Society Re: March 26, 2023 - International Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness.**

February 1, 2023 letter from Mervyn Brown to the Village of Tahsis, Mayor Davis and Councillors Re: Petition presented at the January 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0058/2023

THAT these correspondence items including the late item "L5" be received.

CARRIED

Joseph/Fowler: VOT 0059/2023

THAT correspondence item #2 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

L2 January 30, 2023 email from Nigel Hogarth Re: The Community Dock Project

There was a discussion around the Community Dock Project.

Mayor Davis will follow up with the marine structural engineer regarding options for future expansion for commercial vessels.

M. New Business

1 Village of Tahsis delegation for 2023 UBCM Convention:

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0060/2023

TO receive and consider the selection of Village of Tahsis delegates to the 2023 UBCM Convention (Vancouver Convention Centre September 18-22, 2023).

CARRIED

A discussion followed.

Fowler/Elliott: VOT 0061/2023

THAT the following members of Council and staff be selected to attend the 2023 UBCM Convention:

CARRIED

Councillor Sarah Fowler

Councillor Cheryl Northcott

Mayor Martin Davis

Mark Tatchell, CAO

2 Report to Council Re: Webcasting Council Meetings on Demand

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0062/2023

THAT the Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

A brief discussion followed.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0063/2023

THAT option # 1 to approve webcasting on demand all open Council meetings, including Committee meetings, Special Council meetings, Budget meetings, and Regular Council meetings, on the Village website using the MS Teams platform be approved.

CARRIED

Public Input #2

A member of the public commented on audio-visual equipment for Council meetings.

Two members of the public commented on the Community Dock Project.

A member of the public spoke about the Code of Conduct.

A member of the public commented on staff salaries

Public Exclusion

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0064/2023

THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with section 90 (1) (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

CARRIED

Recess

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0065/2023

THAT the Regular Meeting recess to go into the closed meeting.

CARRIED

Reconvene

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0069/2023

THAT the Regular Meeting reconvene at 8:41 p.m.

CARRIED

Adjournment

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0070/2023

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

the 21st day of February, 2023



Chief Administrative Officer

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Cheryl Northcott

has completed the course on

Responsible Conduct Every Day

February 3, 2023



LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

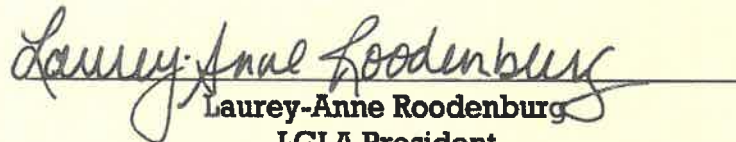
Councillor Sarah Fowler

of the Village of Tahsis

has successfully completed the requirements for LGLA Certification,
and is therefore awarded this

LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE IN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

given this 05 day of May, 2021


Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
LGLA President



LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Village of Tahsis,
977 South Maquinna Dr.,
Box 219,
Tahsis, B.C., VOP 1X0

RECEIVED
~~FEB 03 2023~~
FEB 01 2023

344 Alpine View,
Tahsis, B.C.
VOP 1X0

Feb 1, 2023

To: Village Of Tahsis Mayor Davis & Councillors

A petition was signed and presented to Mayor and Council for it to be reviewed at the Regular Council Meeting of January 3, 2022. It was presented on behalf of 26 Tahsis residents who affirmed their belief that Councillor Northcott & Councillor Fowler would be in a conflict of interest if they voted on the loan authorization bylaw for the Firehall Relocation Project.

At the next council meeting of January 17, Mark Tatchell CAO said that this petition had not been received. Clearly, this was a misrepresentation in that I formally served the mayor and councillors with a copy of this petition and it had in fact been published in the Council Agenda as a topic for discussion.

During this subsequent meeting, Councillor Fowler participated in discourse on further topics and proceeded to make a diligent attempt to discredit this petition by claiming that the writer of a letter to Council had stated that "... *the petition had coercion attached to it...*" When council appeared to disregard her comments, she reiterated: "*I take it that it doesn't matter that there was coercion.*"

I immediately attempted to affirm that I had taken the signature of Murray Peavoy, the resident who had written the referenced letter, and could confirm for the record, that no coercion was involved in gathering his or any other signature. However, I was prevented from speaking, by Councillor Fowler. Instead, she indicated that she wanted her slanderous allegations to be on the public record and the only witness to this acclaimed event in question, to be prevented from speaking. Later Councillor Fowler stated: "*I think it is really important to understand why this person signed*" - implying that Mr. Peavoy was coerced into doing so.

When I tried to explain the facts and stated: "*I have spoken to this person and there was no coercion at all*" I was shut down by Councillor Fowler. Mayor Davis then stated in regards to Mr. Peavoy: "... *I would prefer to hear from him directly rather than the person who started the petition.*"

I believe that the statements made and events outlined in this letter, indicate that a public council meeting was used as a means to discredit me and broadcast false information. Attached to this letter is an email I received from Mr. Peavoy - after he heard the comments of Councillor Fowler. He appeared shocked that a councillor would make such a claim and assured me that coercion did not occur. He told me that he wanted the record made clear and reemphasized that no coercion was used to obtain his signature. Attached to this letter is the copy of an email I received from Mr. Peavoy.

Sincerely,



Mervyn Brown N.D., D.O., D. Phys.

Under duress?

□ □

□

nan peavoy <peavoy_2@hotmail.com>

□

□

□

□

To:

•

You;

•

•

Rita Aedan

•

Wed 2023-01-18 3:50 PM

Hi Rita and Mervyn,

I'm told that Counsellor Fowler said that I was under duress when I signed the petition.

That means that threats were made to extract my signature.

I'll make it clear to her and council that did not occur.

Murray Peavoy